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Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Naif Bin Bandar **Al-Sudairy** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a substantive debate on the item jointly with item 115, entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination", at its 19th to 22nd meetings, on 21, 22 and 25 October 1999, and took action on item 114 at its 37th, 39th, 41st, 48th and 56th meetings, from 8 to 10 and on 16 and 22 November 1999. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (see A/C.3/54/SR.19-22, 37, 39, 41, 48 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the preparatory process for the World Conference (A/54/299);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/54/347);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/C.3/54/7);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/54/18).

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(e) Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Appeal for Peace Conference, held at The Hague from 12 to 15 May 1999 (A/54/98);

(f) Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Finland and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro and the priorities for action adopted during the first summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, held at Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June 1999 (A/54/448);

(g) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063);

(h) Letter dated 3 November 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/528-S/1999/1126).

4. At the 19th meeting, on 21 October, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination made an introductory statement (A/C.3/54/SR.19).

5. At the same meeting, the Deputy to the Director, New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, made a statement on behalf of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and also made a statement on behalf of the High Commissioner (see A/C.3/54/SR.19).

6. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination and the Deputy to the Director, New York Office of the High Commissioner, responded to questions raised by the representatives of Finland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Liechtenstein, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Austria (see A/C.3/54/SR.19) .

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.26

7. At the 37th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, as well as Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" (A/C.3/54/L.26). Subsequently, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Guyana orally revised it as follows:

(a) After the existing ninth preambular paragraph, a new preambular paragraph was inserted, which read:

"*Recognizing* both the challenges and opportunities in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in an increasingly globalized world";

(b) In operative paragraph 2, the words "strengthen its impact and" were inserted before the words "ensure its success";

(c) In operative paragraph 3, the word "welcomes" was replaced by the words "takes note with appreciation of";

(d) In operative paragraph 4, the words "and non-governmental organizations" were inserted after the words "other relevant mechanisms";

(e) Operative paragraph 5, which read:

"*Recommends* that the Commission on Human Rights consider the implementation of the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur with regard to all forms of xenophobia and related intolerance",

was deleted;

(f) Operative paragraph 8 (former paragraph 9), which read:

"*Expresses its profound concern about and unequivocal condemnation* of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, in particular all racist violence, and related acts of random and indiscriminate violence",

was replaced by the following:

"*Expresses its profound concern about and unequivocal condemnation* of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular all racist violence, including related acts of random and indiscriminate violence";

(g) Operative paragraph 11 (former paragraph 12), which read:

"*Expresses deep concern* about the increase in racial and xenophobic violence, in particular in Europe and North America, including the increasing number of associations established on the bases of racist and xenophobic platforms and constitutions",

was replaced by the following:

"*Expresses deep concern* about the increase in racial and xenophobic violence in many parts of the world, as well as the increasing number of associations established on the basis of racist and xenophobic platforms and charters, as reflected in the report of the Special Rapporteur";

(h) In operative paragraph 19 (former paragraph 20), the word "work" was replaced by the word "action".

9. At the 41st meeting, on 10 November, the Secretary drew the attention of the Committee to a statement by the Controller of the United Nations (A/C.3/54/6).

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.26, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.28/Rev.1

11. At the 39th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, as well as Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance" (A/C.3/54/L.28/Rev.1). Subsequently, Austria, Iceland, Israel, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the 48th meeting, on 16 November, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.28/Rev.1.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.28/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

14. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.3/54/SR.48).

C. Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

15. At the 56th meeting, on 22 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination[1] and refer its decision 4 (55)[2] back to the Committee for further consideration (see para. 17).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

16. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/133 of 9 December 1998, and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/78 of 28 April 1999,[3]

[2] Ibid., chap. I, sect. F.

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 3* (E/1999/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Stressing that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[4] adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, attaches importance to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Convinced that racism, as one of the exclusionist phenomena plaguing many societies, requires resolute action and cooperation for its eradication,

Having examined the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,[5] including its conclusions and recommendations,

Deeply concerned that, despite continued efforts, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as acts of violence, persist and even grow in magnitude, incessantly adopting new forms, including tendencies to establish policies based on racial, religious, ethnic, cultural and national superiority or exclusivity,

Deeply concerned also that those advocating racism and racial discrimination misuse new communication technologies, including the Internet, to disseminate their repugnant views,

Noting that the use of such technologies can also contribute to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Conscious of the fundamental difference between, on the one hand, racism and racial discrimination as governmental policy or resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity and, on the other hand, other manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that are increasingly visible in segments of many societies and are perpetrated by individuals or groups, some of which manifestations are directed against migrant workers and members of their families,

Reaffirming, in this regard, the responsibility of Governments for safeguarding and protecting the rights of individuals residing in their territory against crimes perpetrated by racist or xenophobic individuals or groups,

Recognizing both the challenges and opportunities in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in an increasingly globalized world,

Noting with concern that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance may be aggravated by, *inter alia*, inequitable distribution of wealth, marginalization and social exclusion,

Deeply concerned that racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers continue to increase despite the efforts undertaken by the international community to protect the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families,

Noting that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its general recommendation XV (42) of 17 March 1993[6] concerning article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[7] holds that the prohibition of the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or racial hatred is

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[4] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[5] See A/54/347.

[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/48/18), chap. VIII, sect. B.

[7] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

compatible with the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as outlined in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[8] and in article 5 of the Convention,

Noting also that the reports that the States parties submit under the Convention contain, *inter alia*, information about the causes of, as well as measures to combat, contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Particularly alarmed at the rise of racist and xenophobic ideas in political circles, in the sphere of public opinion and in society at large,

Noting with appreciation that the Special Rapporteur will continue to pay attention to the rise of racist and xenophobic ideas in political circles, in the sphere of public opinion and in society at large,

Underlining the importance of urgently eliminating growing and violent trends of racism and racial discrimination, and conscious that any form of impunity for crimes motivated by racist and xenophobic attitudes plays a role in weakening the rule of law and democracy and tends to encourage the recurrence of such crimes, and requires resolute action and cooperation for its eradication,

Emphasizing the importance of creating conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance within societies,

1. *Reaffirms* the proclamation of 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;[9]

2. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies, Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to carry out, promote and disseminate activities and action in the framework of the commemorative year in order to strengthen its impact and ensure its success, in particular the outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

3. *Expresses its full support and appreciation* for the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, encourages its continuation and takes note with appreciation of the report of the Special Rapporteur;[5]

4. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue his exchange of views with Member States, related United Nations organs and the specialized agencies, other relevant mechanisms and non-governmental organizations in order to further their effectiveness and mutual cooperation;

5. *Commends* the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for its role in the effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[7] which contributes to the fight against contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Reaffirms* that acts of racist violence against others stemming from racism do not constitute expressions of opinion but rather offences;

7. *Declares* that racism and racial discrimination are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world and must be combated by all available means;

[8] Resolution 217 A (III).

[9] Resolution 53/132, sect. III.

8. *Expresses its profound concern about and unequivocal condemnation* of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular all racist violence, including related acts of random and indiscriminate violence;

9. *Also expresses its profound concern about and unequivocal condemnation* of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, including propaganda, activities and organizations based on doctrines of superiority of one race or group of persons that attempt to justify or promote racism and racial discrimination in any form;

10. *Expresses its profound concern about and condemnation* of manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against, as well as stereotyping of, migrant workers and members of their families, persons belonging to minorities and members of vulnerable groups in many societies;

11. *Expresses deep concern* about the increase in racial and xenophobic violence in many parts of the world, as well as the increasing number of associations established on the basis of racist and xenophobic platforms and charters, as reflected in the report of the Special Rapporteur;

12. *Encourages* all States to include in their educational curricula and social programmes at all levels, as appropriate, knowledge of and tolerance and respect for foreign cultures, peoples and countries;

13. *Recognizes* that the increasing gravity of different manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in various parts of the world requires a more integrated and effective approach on the part of the relevant mechanisms of United Nations human rights machinery;

14. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to eradicate all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

15. *Calls upon* all States to review and, where necessary, revise their immigration policies with a view to eliminating all discriminatory policies and practices against migrants which are inconsistent with relevant international human rights instruments;

16. *Condemns* the misuse of print, audio-visual and electronic media and new communication technologies, including the Internet, to incite violence motivated by racial hatred;

17. *Recognizes* that Governments should implement and enforce appropriate and effective legislation to prevent acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

18. *Calls upon* all Governments and intergovernmental organizations, with the assistance of non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to continue to supply relevant information to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to fulfil his mandate;

19. *Commends* non-governmental organizations for the action that they have taken against racism and racial discrimination and for the continuous support and assistance that they have provided to the victims of racism and racial discrimination;

20. *Urges* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur with a view to enabling him to fulfil his mandate, including the examination of incidents of contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination, *inter alia*, against blacks, Arabs and Muslims, xenophobia, Negrophobia, anti-Semitism and related intolerance;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the necessary human and financial assistance to carry out his mandate efficiently, effectively

and expeditiously and to enable him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

Draft resolution II
Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its objectives, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, of achieving international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming also its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate totally and unconditionally racism in all its forms and racial discrimination, and its conviction that racism and racial discrimination constitute a total negation of the purposes and principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[10]

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[11] and the Convention against Discrimination in Education,[12] adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 December 1960,

Noting the efforts of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination since its establishment in 1970 to promote the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

Recalling the outcome of the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva in 1978[13] and in 1983,[14]

Recalling also the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, and, in particular, the attention given in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[15] to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Stressing the importance and sensitivity of the activities of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling with satisfaction its resolutions 48/91 of 20 December 1993 and 49/146 of 23 December 1994, by which, respectively, it proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which began in 1993, and adopted the revised Programme of Action for the Third Decade,

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[10] Resolution 217 A (III).

[11] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 49, No. 6193.

[13] See *Report of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 14-25 August 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XIV.2).

[14] See *Report of the second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 1-12 August 1983* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XIV.4 and corrigendum).

[15] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Noting with grave concern that, despite the efforts of the international community, the principal objectives of the two previous Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination have not been attained and that millions of human beings continue to the present day to be the victims of varied forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Noting with great concern that, despite the efforts undertaken by the international community at various levels, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, ethnic antagonism and acts of violence are showing signs of increase in many parts of the world, and that the number of associations established on the basis of racist and xenophobic platforms and charters is increasing, as reflected in the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,[16]

Alarmed that technological developments in the field of communications, including the Internet, continue to be utilized by various groups engaged in violent activity to promote racist and xenophobic propaganda aimed at inciting racial hatred, and to collect funds to sustain violent campaigns against multi-ethnic societies throughout the world,

Noting that the use of such technologies can also contribute to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary-General[17] within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling its resolution 53/132 of 9 December 1998, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the financial and personnel resources necessary for the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening national legislation and institutions for the promotion of racial harmony and for the effective enforcement of such legislation,

Remaining firmly convinced of the need to take more effective and sustained measures at the national and international levels for the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Deeply concerned that the phenomenon of racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers continues to increase, despite the efforts made by the international community to improve the protection of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families,

Recalling the adoption at its forty-fifth session of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[18]

Acknowledging that indigenous people are at times victims of particular forms of racism and racial discrimination,

I
Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and coordination of activities

1. *Welcomes* the report submitted by the Secretary-General;[17]

2. *Reaffirms* that racism and racial discrimination are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world, and expresses its firm determination

[16] A/54/347.

[17] A/54/299.

[18] Resolution 45/158, annex.

and its commitment to eradicate, by all available means, racism in all its forms and racial discrimination;

3. *Urges* all Governments to take all necessary measures to combat new forms of racism, in particular by constantly adapting the means provided to combat them, especially in the legislative, administrative, educational and information fields;

4. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to assign a high priority to the follow-up to programmes and activities for combating racism and racial discrimination, consistent with the need to ensure the effective preparation of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General in his reports on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to accord special attention to and provide information on the situation of migrant workers in this regard;

6. *Calls upon* all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[18] as a matter of priority;

7. *Commends* all States that have ratified or acceded to the international instruments to combat racism and racial discrimination, especially the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[11] and the Convention against Discrimination in Education;[12]

8. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in order to achieve its universal ratification;

9. *Urges* States to limit the extent of any reservation they lodge to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to formulate any reservation as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the objective and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the objective and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

10. *Encourages* the mass media to promote ideas of tolerance and understanding among peoples and different cultures;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to draw attention to the effects of racial discrimination on minorities and migrant workers and members of their families, especially women and children, in the fields of education, training and employment, and to submit in his report specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat such discrimination;

12. *Recognizes* the need for adequate support and financial resources for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the Programme of Action for the Decade and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session concrete proposals on how to ensure the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action, including through the regular budget of the United Nations and extrabudgetary sources;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* to those who have made contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade, strongly appeals to all Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Fund and, to this end,

requests the Secretary-General to continue to establish the appropriate contacts and undertake the appropriate initiatives;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session on the outcome of expert seminars held in connection with the activities of the Third Decade;

15. *Welcomes* the establishment of the racism project team in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to coordinating all activities of the Third Decade;

16. *Urges* all Governments, the Secretary-General, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, in implementing the Programme of Action for the Third Decade, to pay particular attention to the situation of indigenous people;

17. *Requests* States to consider the relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council on the integrated follow-up to previous world conferences and the need to make optimum use of all available mechanisms in the struggle against racism;

18. *Strongly underlines* the importance of education as a significant means of preventing and eradicating racism and racial discrimination and of creating awareness of principles of human rights, in particular among young people, and, in this regard, requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its work on the preparation and dissemination of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote teaching, training and educational activities on human rights and against racism and racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on activities at the primary and secondary levels of education;

19. *Considers* that, in order to attain the objectives of the Decade, all parts of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade should be given equal attention;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to accord high priority to the activities of the Programme of Action and, in this regard, also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary financial resources are provided for the implementation of the activities of the Third Decade during the biennium 2000-2001;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, containing an analysis of information received on activities to combat racism and racial discrimination;

22. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly proposals which would assist the full implementation of the Programme of Action;

23. *Reiterates its calls* upon all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and interested non-governmental organizations to contribute fully to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

II
World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

24. *Recalls* its resolutions 52/111 of 12 December 1997 and 53/132 of 9 December 1998, in which it established that the Commission on Human Rights would act as the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination,

Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/78 of 28 April 1999[19] and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/12 of 27 July 1999;

25. *Recommends* that the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference give consideration to the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, including the recommendation contained in paragraph 41 (b) of his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;[20]

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate financial resources are made available for the preparatory process for the World Conference, including from the regular budget of the United Nations;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make every effort to ensure the mobilization of resources for the voluntary fund for the World Conference to cover the participation of the least developed countries in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself, and requests all Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and private individuals to contribute to the fund;

28. *Calls upon* the High Commissioner to help States and regional organizations, upon request, to convene national and regional meetings or to undertake other initiatives, including activities at the expert level, to prepare for the World Conference and urges the specialized agencies and the regional commissions, in coordination with the High Commissioner, to contribute to the convening of regional preparatory meetings;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions to provide financial and technical assistance for the organization of the regional preparatory meetings planned in the context of the World Conference and stresses that such assistance should be supplemented by voluntary contributions;

30. *Decides* that the World Conference and the sessions of the Preparatory Committee should be open to the participation of:

(a) All States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies;

(b) Representatives of all regional organizations and regional commissions involved in the preparation of regional meetings, as well as associate members of the regional commissions;

(c) Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers;

(d) Representatives of the specialized agencies, the secretariats of the regional commissions and all United Nations bodies and programmes;

(e) Representatives of all United Nations mechanisms in the field of human rights;

(f) Other interested governmental organizations, which shall be represented by observers;

(g) Interested non-governmental organizations, which shall be represented by observers in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996;

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[19] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 3* (E/1999/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[20] A/53/269.

31. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of South Africa to host the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001;

32. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) To undertake a study to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its first session on ways of improving coordination between her Office and all specialized agencies and international, regional and subregional organizations with regard to action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(b) To continue to devise and implement, with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, a world information campaign aimed at sensitizing public opinion to the importance and the objectives of the World Conference, to publish in all the official languages of the United Nations an information pamphlet that is to be made available to non-governmental organizations, the media and the general public and to inform the Preparatory Committee of the developments in this regard;

(c) To help States, upon request, and regional organizations to convene national and regional meetings or to undertake other initiatives, including activities at the expert level, to prepare for the World Conference;

(d) To draw up a draft agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee, taking into consideration, *inter alia*, the need to address in a comprehensive manner all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related contemporary forms of intolerance;

(e) To continue fund-raising activities in order to increase the resources for the voluntary fund established specifically to cover all aspects of the preparatory process for the World Conference and the participation of non-governmental organizations, in particular those from developing countries;

33. *Welcomes* the proposals made by the open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the themes for the World Conference;

34. *Decides* that the World Conference will be action-oriented and focus on practical measures to eradicate racism, including measures of prevention, education and protection and through the provision of effective remedies, taking into full consideration the existing human rights instruments;

35. *Requests* the Preparatory Committee to begin drafting as soon as possible a final document on specific goals, as well as objectives and timetables for their achievement;

36. *Appeals* to Member States to contribute generously to the voluntary fund for the World Conference to cover the preparatory process and the World Conference and the participation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries;

37. *Requests* Governments, the specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants, and other human rights mechanisms to assist the Preparatory Committee and to undertake reviews and submit recommendations concerning the World Conference and the preparations therefor to the Preparatory Committee, through the Secretary-General, and to participate actively in the Conference;

38. *Calls upon* States and regional organizations to convene national or regional meetings or to take other initiatives, such as public information campaigns, to raise awareness of the World Conference as part of the preparation for the Conference, and requests regional preparatory meetings to submit reports to the Preparatory Committee, through the Secretary-General, on the outcome of their deliberations, including practical and action-oriented recommendations to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

III

Proclamation of 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

39. *Strongly reaffirms* the proclamation of 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and, in this context, calls upon Governments, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to observe the International Year in a suitable manner, including through programmes of action;

IV

General

40. *Decides* to keep the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" on its agenda and to consider it as a matter of high priority at its fifty-fifth session.

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17. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination[21] and, in the light of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,[22] decides to refer back to the Committee, for further consideration, its decision 4 (55).[23]

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[21] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 18* and addendum (A/54/18 and Add.1).

[22] A/54/18/Add.1.

[23] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/54/18), chap. I, sect. F.